

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00540 171634Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00  
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05  
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 /121 W  
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R 141910Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4240  
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 540

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EMIN ENGR NS US FR CA GW  
SUBJ: PROSPECTS FOR URANIUM IN SURINAM

1. EMBOFF MET WITH HEAD OF GEOLOGICAL MINING SERVICE (GMD)  
RENE CAMBRIDGE APRIL 14 TO FOLLOW-UP EARLIER DISCUSSION OF  
RECENT NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF INCREASING FOREIGN INTEREST IN  
EXPLORING FOR URANIUM IN SURINAM. CAMBRIDGE CONFIRMED SUCH  
INTEREST, ADDING THAT FIRMS FROM FRANCE, WEST GERMANY,  
CANADA AND THE U.S. HAVE INQUIRED AND SENT REPRESENTATIVES  
TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION. CAMBRIDGE SAID THAT THE GMD  
ITSELF ALSO WANTS TO UNDERTAKE ADDITIONAL EXPLORATION FOR  
URANIUM IN AREAS WHICH, HE SAID, BEAR STRONG GEOLOGICAL  
RESEMBLANCES TO THOSE REGIONS OF AUSTRALIA WHICH ARE RICH  
IN URANIUM, BUT WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN EXTENSIVELY INVESTIGATED.  
THE GMD HAD ENCOURAGED PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN FIRMS BY  
OFFERING TO HOST TWO GEOLOGISTS FROM EACH FOR A PERIOD OF UP  
TO THREE MONTHS DURING WHICH THEY COULD LOOK AT  
CONDITIONS ON THE GROUND.

2. ACCORDING TO CAMBRIDGE, THE FRENCH ASKED FOR LICENSES  
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FIRST ABOUT A YEAR AGO AND SIGNED A LETTER OF INTENT WITH  
THE GMD IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. THE WEST GERMANS CAME  
ALONG ABOUT LAST AUGUST, AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE CANADIANS  
AND AMERICAN FIRMS SHOWED INTEREST. CAMBRIDGE HAD  
EARLIER IDENTIFIED GENERAL ELECTRIC AND WESTINGHOUSE AS  
THE TWO U.S. FIRMS WHO ARE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER.

3. IN CAMBRIDGE'S VIEW, THE FRENCH, HAVING ASKED FIRST, HAVE PRIORITY IN SELECTING CONCESSION AREAS FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION, AND HE EXPECTS THEM TO INDICATE THEIR CHOICES ABOUT MAY 10. SUBSEQUENTLY, OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY AREAS IN WHICH THEY WOULD LIKE TO WORK. CAMBRIDGE EXPECTED THAT MORE THAN ONE FIRM WOULD EVENTUALLY GET LICENSES, THOUGH FOR OPERATIONS IN DIFFERENT AREAS. MOST OF THE PROMISING SECTIONS ARE LOCATED IN THE INTERIOR OF SURINAM ALONG A BELT STRETCHING THE WIDTH OF THE COUNTRY.

4. CAMBRIDGE POINTED OUT INADEQUACIES OF SURINAM'S PRESENT MINING ORDINANCE WHICH LIMITS CONCESSIONS FOR EXPLORATION TO 20,000 HECTARES, AN AREA WHICH HE CALLED TOO SMALL FOR URANIUM EXPLORATION. TO GET AROUND THIS PROBLEM, THE GMD IS PROPOSING TO WORK TOGETHER WITH INTERESTED FIRMS TO JOINTLY EXPLORE IN LARGER AREAS. AS TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXPLOITATION STATE, CAMBRIDGE SAID INITIAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE FIRMS CONCERNED WILL INCLUDE SOME INDICATION OF WHAT THE FIRM CAN EXPECT AS A RETURN ON POSSIBLE INVESTMENT. THE FRENCH, HE SAID, HAD PROPOSED A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE GOS VIEWING SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT AS ADDITIONAL INSURANCE AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE FUTURE NATIONALIZATION BY THE GOS.

5. COMMENT: AT THIS STAGE, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO TEL  
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WHETHER CAMBRIDGE'S HOPES FOR SIGNIFICANT DEPOSITS OF URANIUM IN SURINAM WILL BE FULFILLED, BUT IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT ONE OR MORE FOREIGN FIRMS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING AMERICAN ENTERPRISES, ARE ON THE VERGE OF DECIDING TO HELP HIM IN HIS--AND WHAT WILL BE THEIR-- SEARCH.  
ZURHELLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 14 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
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